

PANHANDLE SUN

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

February / March 2007

PLS Coordinator's Message

Evaluation is an elusive activity. It's exciting to make plans, and rewarding to carry them out. But how often do we go on to the next project, without taking time to determine whether the last one was successful? The evaluation process has become even more essential as we consider the many new directions we could go with our library services. How do we decide what to provide for library users if we don't know what they like or don't like about what we're doing? We may feel pressured by new technology expectations, but in making decisions about any programs, whether high tech or low, the most important thing is whether those who would benefit from it are using it and finding it valuable. And if not, why not? I recently saw this definition of "Library 2.0": any service, physical or virtual, that successfully reaches users, is evaluated frequently, and makes use of customer input. It's the input part that we've become more aware of now that many libraries encourage people to leave comments on library web pages, add responses to items in the library catalog, ask for help by way of instant messaging, and in other ways participate and contribute. The popularity of so many recent trends – from voting for the next "Idol," to sharing thoughts and photos with the world on a blog or Flickr – makes it clear that people want to be heard, want to be involved, want to help make the decisions and create the content. There are many ways that the library can provide opportunities for its users and potential users to let us know what they want. These new venues for input will only help us evaluate what we do, and decide where our funds, our training, and our energy should go. The most exciting part of what we do in libraries is that it changes (or it should!) based on what our users want and need. But how will we know what that is, unless we regularly evaluate – ask for input from current and potential users - and then respond to it. How often we hear from those with successful teen programs that the most important component is listening to what the teens want. Even more essential than trying to keep up with each new technology, is giving our users the opportunity to participate in determining what we offer, and how it can be accessed, used and have value in their lives. The more response we get, the easier it will be to evaluate what we do, and plan for the future. Libraries can be an integral part of the diversity of learning and entertainment options that satisfy a great variety of personal interests. The more responsive we are, the more our libraries will be used.

Cherie Longmuir

*******UPCOMING EVENTS*******

February 1, 2007 New Technologies Workshop

Location: WNCC, 371 College Drive, Sidney
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Register by January 25, 2007 with PLS

February 1, 2007 Live Library Blog

(Librarians Talking to Each Other)
Location: WNCC, 371 College Drive, Sidney
Time: 12:30 Pizza (\$3.00)
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Talk time
Register by January 25, 2007 with PLS

February 9, 2007 College of DuPage

"Next Gen Librarianship: Where Do We Go From Here?"
Panhandle Locations: Chadron State College, ESU 13 -Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney
Register with the PLS office

February 14, 2007 Library Legislative Day

Location: Cornhusker Hotel-Lincoln
Time: 8:30 a.m. Coffee and chat
9:30 a.m. A briefing of legislative issues affecting Nebraska Libraries
Noon-Lunch with Senators
1:30 seminar speaker

February 16, 2007 Library Media Workshop

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Sandy White, ESU 13-Sidney, swhite@panesu.org

March 4-10, 2007 Teen Tech Week

Register for Teen Tech Week at: www.ala.org/teentechweek and receive incentives from these Promotional Partners- Rosen Publishing and tutor.com
Visit the Teen Tech Week Wiki at: <http://teentechweek.wikispaces.com>

March 7, 2007 Summer Reading Program Workshop

Location: Gering Public Library, 1055 P Street, Gering
Time: 9:15 a.m. to 3:00p.m.
Lunch is on your own
Register by March 1, 2007 with PLS

March 13, 2007 Panhandle Library System Board Meeting

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Main floor conference room
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Contact the PLS office for agenda

March 22, 2007 PLS Workshop: Technology Training

Location: Alliance Learning Center Lab
Time: 9:30-3:30
Includes Computer Maintenance, Web Page Design, Preparing for what's next
Cost: \$5.00
Registration by March 12, 2007 with PLS

March 23, 2007 College of DuPage

"Library Transformation: Making it Happen"
Panhandle Locations: Chadron State College, ESU 13-Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Register with the PLS office

April 10, 17, 24, 2007 Basic Skills Class (Public Services)

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 and 1 to 3 p.m.
Lunch is on your own
Cost \$35, payable to Nebraska Library Commission
Register at www.nlc.state.ne.us and click on "Commission Training" or call 800-307-2665
North Platte site: April 3, 10, 17

April 11, 2007 Book Repair Basics

Location: Sidney Public Library, 1112 12th Avenue, Sidney
Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon
Presenter: Nancy Eddy
Register by April 2, 2007 with the PLS office





Paxton Library hosted an “American Girl” party that drew a large crowd of young ladies who love the books and the dolls. Below, Santa visited the library to read stories and talk to the preschoolers. Director Dianne Jay said that activities like these bring awareness to the community of the resources and fun available at the library. The Friends group provided refreshments and assistance. Although Paxton has just over 500 residents, they are big library supporters, who have made many donations to help beautify the facility. The library met the guidelines for accreditation this fall.

Congratulations to **Chadron PL** and **Sidney PL**, which both were awarded Youth Grant funds from the Nebraska Library Commission. **Mitchell PL** has been receiving a steady flow of donations from local residents in support of their expansion project, and with a recent \$50,000 gift from a local foundation, they have the matching funds they need to apply for a community development grant. **Rushville PL** received funds from Kinder Morgan to support their summer reading program, in addition to a Libri Grant for new materials. **Gering PL** has applied for LSTA funds to expand their technology resources.

Inside Our Libraries

The new staff at **Rushville** Middle and Elementary School libraries have been weeding and redecorating. When Dawn Weber started in September, she was delighted with the new carpeting and paint, but had the challenge of getting all the books back on the shelves in order. Recently she has borrowed Playaway digital books from the PLS office, and after demonstrating them to teachers, feels that they may be valuable tools to help students with special reading needs. A grant-funded pre-school has been added to Dawn's responsibilities, so she plans programs for 45 children ages 3-5. She is pleased to be able to coordinate with Diane Davis to bring the school children to visit the public library just down the street. Janet Johnson has lots of ideas about how to brighten up the middle school library with posters and new shelving arrangements, and is thankful for a supportive administrator. They have new laptop computers for student use, and she is exploring the option of the Follett Destiny software for the 4 Gordon-Rushville consolidated schools. She hopes to work with students on a yearbook, one of her special interests. Janet commutes on weekends to her home in Gering.

Floyd Smith, director of the **West Nebraska Family Research and History Center** in Scottsbluff, hosted an open house in December. He has added cubicles that are outfitted with computers, scanners, and microfilm readers, to make doing genealogy searching much easier. Historical displays and attractive furnishings have transformed this former storefront into an exciting research center. With a volunteer staff to guide them, a steady stream of visitors seeks out the facility, from across and outside of the state. Betty Hubbs, who helps organize the materials, is considering possible automation options to make the items more accessible – though the unique nature of many of them create a special challenge. Floyd is a visionary, and sees the Center one day occupying a much larger space. As he says, all we need is money.

Anne Hostert is our future. She is a former classroom teacher who has decided to join the ranks of school librarians. She spends 2 days per week at **Central ES**, working with all of **Sidney's** 4th graders. The other 3 days she is at West ES, with the 5th and 6th graders. She has the student rapport and focus on learning that comes from the classroom, combined with the creativity it takes to develop a comfortable library environment. There is a fireplace on one wall at Central, with big couches surrounding it. After the students finish their library lesson, they quietly scamper around the room selecting books, and then snuggle onto the couch or curl up on the rug to read. The arrangement of tables and shelves creates an open feeling, and there will be more space when the card catalog unit is gone! Every empty shelf has face-out covers, with featured displays of hunting books, popular authors, etc. Although Anne feels she needs to "stay home" for now to work with her teachers, she is looking forward to getting to know and learn from other librarians.





NOTES FROM NANCY BOLT

Nancy Bolt, former director of the Colorado State Library, has many years of experience working in groups, attending meetings, supervising and being supervised. On November 17, she shared with us some things she has learned to make the best of whatever work situation you are in.

- *Practice integrity: use fact-based persuasion not manipulation to influence others.*
- *Push yourself to take risks – do something you haven't done before.*
- *If you act like you know what you're doing, most people think that you do.*
- *Learn to brag about yourself, feel pride in what you do well.*
- *Think of a project you were nervous about that turned out successfully – what did you learn about yourself?*
- *Practice informed opportunism – collect data, know your goal, find out what would convince others to help you.*
- *Remove “right and wrong” from your vocabulary.*
- *Model the behavior that you want from others.*
- *Be optimistic: focus on opportunities, not problems.*
- *Associate with people who are energy givers, open to new ideas, problem solvers.*
- *Make connections with people; work with others on their projects.*
- *Dare to be direct: ask for clarification – don't assume you know what others are thinking or feeling.*



TEEN SPACES

Now that you've created a great place and provided materials for teens – and they are *using* them – you might feel a need to know more about this special group. Here are some resources from the Nebraska Library Commission that may be useful:

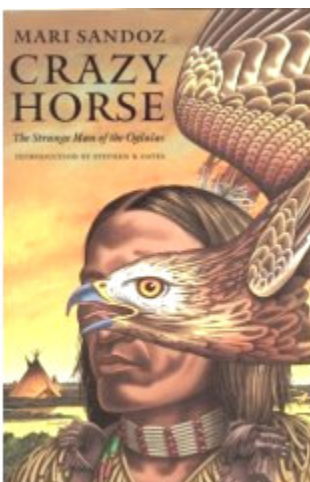
The Teen-centered Book Club: Readers into Leaders

The chapters cover topics such as: What the teen-centered book club is and what it takes to make it work; suggestions for planning and putting the plan into action; recruiting, boosting visibility, garnering support; using book clubs to develop teen leaders; tweaking and troubleshooting; evaluations; and resources for more information.

Thinking outside the Book: Alternatives for Today's Teen Library Collections

This book examines facets of teen collections such as magazines, graphic novels and comics, audiobooks, music, videos, websites/online collections, games, and CD based reference services.

To borrow: call 800-307-2665 or email ready@nlc.state.ne.us



ONE BOOK

ONE NEBRASKA

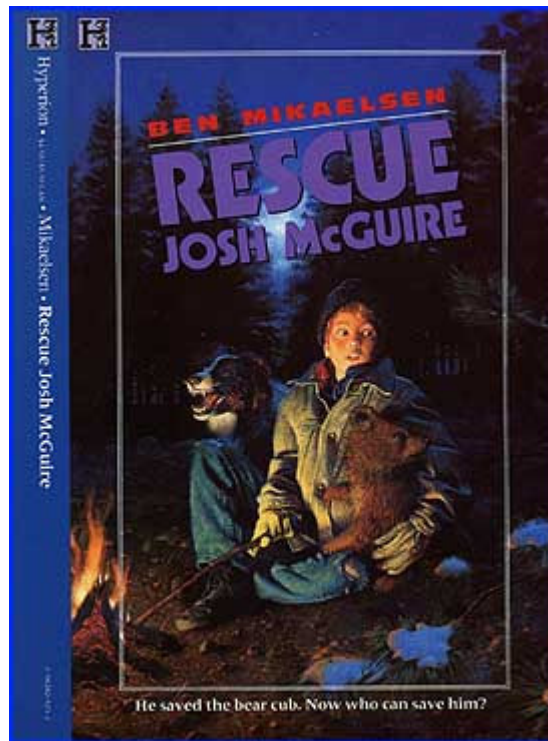
On January 17, the governor officially declared Crazy Horse by Mari Sandoz as the book all Nebraskans are encouraged to read in 2007. Libraries across the state will be encouraging book discussions and sponsoring special events. Below is a list of activities, but more information is available at www.onebookonenebraska.org or www.marisandoz.org

- Book sets available to borrow through the System offices
- Crazy Horse exhibit at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
- Mari Sandoz annual conference at Chadron State College, March 29-30
- Student writing competition (winners recognized May 10)
- Exhibit at Nebraska State Fair
- Literary Teleconference Sept.9
- Featured at Nebraska Book Festival Oct.5
- Program at Nebraska Library Assn. conference Oct.24
- Pow-Wow in Chadron Nov.17

A traveling photo exhibit will be available to libraries and museums throughout the year. Based on the book Crazy Horse: A Photographic Biography by Bill and Jan Moeller, the pictures help the reader see where Crazy Horse lived and traveled, and how he related to his environment. To book the exhibit starting in April, contact Sara Polak at 308-432-6066.

Mari Sandoz, Nebraska author, historian, and member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame, was one of the most outspoken advocates for fair treatment of Native-Americans and for the documentation of the Plains heritage. Reading Crazy Horse together will provide a way for Nebraskans to reflect on the history and development of our state.





Published by Hyperion Books for Children, 1991

A DARING RESCUE ... OR A DEADLY RISK? Ever since Josh's older brother died, his father has been drinking too much and taking his anger out on Josh. But when he orphans a bear cub on a hunting trip, it's more than Josh can stand. Josh insists on bringing the defenseless cub home, only to find out he must surrender it to game officials.

Knowing the cub will be given to researchers, Josh makes a defiant choice. Taking only his brother's motorcycle, the cub, and his dog, Josh runs away to the mountains, vowing to stay until the hunting laws are changed. But the mountains hold unexpected menace, and Josh's bid for justice soon becomes a battle to survive ...

ONE BOOK FOR NEBRASKA KIDS!!

You may borrow 15 copies of Rescue Josh McGuire by **Ben Mikaelson** from the System office. The bag also includes a discussion guide and activity sheets. The focus for this year's program is kids in grades 4-6. The hope is that many children across the state will share this reading experience and be introduced to a fine author. The program is sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems.

Both school and public libraries are encouraged to participate.

BITS AND PIECES

The rules have changed for applying for a **PLS scholarship**. A member may apply once every two years. It used to be once every three years. If you would like some financial assistance to attend an educational event, class, conference, etc., contact the PLS office.

There is now an online environment similar to Second Life, called **Teen Second Life** (TSL). It is for youth ages 13-17. The standards of no vulgar language or sexual content are strictly enforced. See Second Life at www.secondlife.com

If you want to see how **podcasts** and **tagging** work in a way that's related to your job, go to www.justonemorebook.com. This Canadian web site contains book reviews, information about and from authors, comments from readers – an interactive community of those who write and those who read children's books. By clicking on “play in popup” you will hear a podcast recording on your computer – or you can download it to an iPod. Each book reviewed is put into categories by “tags” – or subjects that someone thinks might help them find it again, or that will group it with others that are similar. Is this the future of readers' advisory?

Are you considering purchasing a subscription database that is especially for teens? Consider **Teen Health and**

Wellness: Real Life, Real Answers. It covers topics such as diseases, nutrition and fitness, friendship and dating, mental health - and includes first person teen narratives. You can try it free for 30 days: www.teenhealthandwellness.com/trial.

National Library Week is April 15-21, with the theme “Come Together @your library”.

On December 13, the book **Charlotte's Web** was read aloud simultaneously in various locations by 547,826 people – which of course broke a record.

The book **Blogging and RSS: A Librarian's Guide**, featured in the January **American Libraries** journal, was written by **Michael Sauers**, who will join the Nebraska Library Commission staff in March as technology innovation librarian. You can get to know him at his blog: www.travelinlibrarian.info/

You can find resources for the promotion “**Kids!@at your library**” at www.ala.org/kids/ Included are graphics for book mark contests, downloadable games and puzzles, and a public service announcement.

Scott Kinney, director of Chadron Public Library, has been appointed to the State Advisory Council on Libraries. **Milton Wolf**, director of Chadron State College Library has been selected as a mentor for the 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute.





WHAT'S NEW AT THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

www.nlc.state.ne.us

Looking for educational opportunities with no travel? Staff at NEBASE member libraries may register for **online training** offered by other OCLC libraries. To see a list of courses available (such as web publishing, virtual reference, intro to networking), search the NLC web page with the term "Network Education Exchange."

There is now a **blog** on the NLC web page. It will provide timely information about library events and topics. You are invited to post comments and join discussions.

"**Now Hiring @your library**" is another new feature on the web page. It lists local and regional job openings, plus has information about library careers, scholarships and mentoring programs.

Before you buy books, supplies, equipment or software, remember that the Library Commission has negotiated **discounts** with many companies for all libraries in the state. One of these is Microsoft upgrades; another is Playaway digital books. Search for "discounts" under Commission Services.

Libraries which meet **accreditation** guidelines are eligible for funds from the state. Now that there are 3 levels of accreditation, there are 3 levels of funding. This year, libraries who reached the enhanced level, will receive \$350 above the base state aid payment. Those who achieved the excellent level will receive \$800 above the base level. This assumes that the local funding for the library has been maintained as required by the state aid standards.

If your library has developed a policy prohibiting **concealed handguns**, you must post a notice to that effect. NLC has provided this link to a poster that could be used for that purpose: http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/Docs/forms/CCW_Sign.pdf

The **Star Reference Manual**, a basic guide for answering reference questions, has been updated and can be found at this site:
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/star/star.html>

NLC has arranged to have the president of Friends of Libraries USA (**FOLUSA**), Sally Reed, present a program on March 27 at North Platte Holiday Inn from 1:00-3:30 p.m. This is part of a library advocacy program that included a statewide membership for all public libraries in FOLUSA.





Shelf Reading

Here are a few items from the PLS library that you might want to borrow:

DVD: “Open Meetings Law Basics”- recording of the workshop presented by legal consultant John Spatz.

Video: “Parliamentary Procedure Made Simple”

Video: “Best New Technologies” (2006) – from College of DuPage series.

Book: Nonfiction in Focus – helping students become independent readers and writers of nonfiction in grades K-6.

Book: Running a Small Library (2006)– includes info on ordering, automation, friends groups, policies, budgeting, and much more.

Book: Running Book Discussion Groups (2006) – includes 12 recommended books with all the info and activities to create an event.



TBBS

Do you know anyone who loves books but can't read because of vision problems or because they are not physically able to hold a book? Be sure they know about the free audio books available from the **Talking Book** service. When they register, they get a free tape player, and the books they select come free in the mail. Call 402-471-4005 or get details at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs/>



Library Board Manual

Every public library recently received one copy of the new Library Board Manual. When you discuss a section of it at a meeting and need more copies of certain pages, you can access the manual here: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/neboardmanual/index.html> And remember that the Board earns CE credits if you use the discussion guide (goldenrod) at the end of each chapter.



Learning Curve

Did you apply for a CE grant last year? If you had, you might be going to the ALA conference in Washington, DC this June. Start thinking ahead and be ready when the application period opens this May. There is a LITA Technology conference in Denver in October, an AASL conference in Reno in October, the PLA conference in Minneapolis next March, and the next ALA conference in Anaheim, CA, June 26, 2008.



Especially for schools ----- (just kidding ;-)

Checkout the **website** that Carol Luna has created at Kimball Jr/Sr High School to help her students and teachers be aware of library resources: <http://teacher.esu13.org/gchslibrary/>

Looking for a way to teach **database concepts** to students in grades 2-6? The program MaxData introduces fields, records, tables and filters, and explains how to represent data. Try it out at www.tomsnyder.com

Here's an alternative to the online community concept that many schools will not allow. **Think.com** is protected and free to students and teachers. Created by the Oracle Education Foundation, it is a space where students can post essays, images, polls and debates to foster collaboration within and outside the classroom. See it at www.think.com

The Nebraska Humanities Council has two new **educational trunks** available for schools to borrow. One features Nebraska's Vietnamese Americans, the other Swedish Americans. Designed for grades 4-8, the materials (clothing, crafts, music, games, books, lesson plans and more) promote cultural understanding through the state's traditional arts and folklife. The lessons are tied to state social studies and reading/writing standards. These join the Germans from Russia and Mexican Americans trunks introduced last year. For information: www.nebraskahumanities.org or call 402-474-2131.

Jan Varn passed along this web resource recommended by her science teachers to use for teaching weather concepts – The Online School for Weather: www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream/

Ross Todd from Rutgers University provided some **challenges to library media specialists** in a recent article in School Library Journal: "From the perspective of school librarians, most ...focused on the finding, the selecting, the locating of information. There was much less attention given to what you do with the stuff. We need to help students ask: When I have the stuff on my topic, what do I do with it? How do I analyze it? How do I identify what is really pertinent? How do I engage with this in a way that enables me to build my own understanding of the topic?" "Knowledge building is where education is going. The critical challenge is that we articulate who we are and what we do, not so much in terms of libraryland, but in terms of the learning landscape."

Nearly 40 library staff attended a workshop on February 18 to hear Tonia Slain and Jim Baresa, automation consultants for **Follett** Software Company, show new features of Circ/Cat v.6.3 and demonstrate the new Destiny product. Destiny has already been installed at Chadron PL, and at least two school districts are considering it. The program was recorded, so contact the PLS office if you'd like to borrow the video.



Grant Tips

Why is it important to record, locate and use statistics? Look at this from a public library in Georgia: “Less than a year after moving into the new library building, YA fiction circulation skyrocketed from 8,123 books to 30,630, a 277% increase.” Many grant applications require you to provide data that supports your request for funds. This can be from your own numbers or from research that supports the new program you are proposing. When you find survey results that reinforce the need you have identified, put them in your grant folder. Here’s an example: “From a survey of 431 human resource officials, 81% of them reported that 72% of incoming high school graduates (new to the workforce) are viewed as deficient in basic English writing skills.” Numbers like that are much more powerful than saying “we want ...because.”

Online Safety

Ron Teixeira, director of the National Cyber Security Alliance, says that cyber security needs to become second nature for children, just like looking both ways before crossing the street. His organization has developed free resources for teaching online safety. Find them at <http://www.staysafeonline.info>. There are materials for the public, small businesses, and educators.

Marketing

Take a look at “the M word” – a web site for sharing ideas about how to market libraries. From having weddings in your library garden to putting the question on your library website “why do you love your library” and asking for responses (wouldn’t that be great to use for a Valentine’s day promotion?) – there are practical ideas for every size library: <http://themwordblog.blogspot.com/>

Teen Programs

If you and your teens need some new activities, consider purchasing the book A Year of Programs for Teens (0-8389-0903-5). It includes 4 programs per month, plus games and book displays.

NLA-NEMA 2007 Conference

Mark your calendar for Nebraska’s state library conference, October 24-26, in Kearney. This is as close as it gets to western Nebraska, so we should have a good crowd from our area. If you need some extra funds to make it happen, apply for a PLS scholarship.

World Cat

OCLC has launched WorldCat.org. This site allows the public to search more than 71 million records for materials located in the 1.4 billion locations of OCLC member libraries. It is truly a world library catalog. Consider adding the link to your website.

“Once text is digital, books seep out of their bindings and weave themselves together. The collective intelligence of a library allows us to see things we can’t in a single, isolated book.... In a curious way, the universal library becomes one very, very, very large single text: the world’s only book.” Writer Kevin Kelly.

LEADERSHIP

Many library leaders have been sharing their thoughts on the future of libraries, and what kind of leadership skills it will take to get there. **Jill Nishi**, director of the U.S. Libraries Initiative for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, says, “Dynamic, external-looking leaders are sustaining public libraries because of their ability to secure partnerships and to identify non-government resources to support their (programs).”

Consultant **Pat Wagner**, in a recent article in NLAQ, stated that, “A good leader is not as concerned about things today, as about things 5 or 10 years in the future. Successful library leadership requires improving the library’s and director’s influence in the greater community and/or institution that it serves.”

Those invited to attend the School Library Journal **Leadership Summit** speculated about “Library 2.0” and its implications for school libraries and learning. Items from their “top 10” list included: take a leadership role in the educational application of emerging technologies; be a partner in the ongoing assessment of student learning; develop and embrace new models for interacting with learners using 21st century technology; build trust and respect.

There are many ways to increase the visibility and value of libraries, but they usually come down to the people working in the library in all capacities. Leadership does not just apply to the director or media specialist. Those with a commitment to the mission of the institution and a vision for what it can provide its users, can be leaders.

If you would like to develop your leadership skills, here is one opportunity for an intensive learning experience: **The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute**. Thirty applicants from across the state will be selected to attend this 4-day training at the St. Benedict’s Center near Schuyler, July 9-13. Two leadership consultants will direct the activities, supplemented by Nebraska library leaders who will share their experience and provide mentoring for those attending. The beautiful setting with its lake and rolling hills, and without the distractions of television, radio, telephones or computers, provides time to reflect on and develop personal and professional strengths.

The application form for this event is included in this newsletter and additional information is available on the PLS website: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle/>

Those who have attended the Leadership Institute in the past have gone on to new jobs and positions of leadership in library organizations, and many have completed more education or earned degrees. If you are anxious for new challenges, consider applying.



LAST WORDS

“The new Web is a very different thing. It’s a tool for bringing together the small contributions of millions of people and making them matter. It’s really a revolution.”

Lev Grossman, Time Magazine.

“Warning! Reading isn’t for everyone! Once you become a habitual reader you may run across ideas which shake you up, which make you question your most cherished views. You may be lured into new thoughts and new places, appreciate what used to repel you, discard old friends for new ones who read too, and like to discuss. Reading isn’t for everyone. Only the curious – the adventurous – the brave!”

Source unknown.

“The vision of the ALA Ahead to 2010 is for the Association to become the leading advocate for the value of libraries and librarians in connecting people to recorded knowledge in all forms, and the public’s right to a free and open information society.”

Leslie Burger, American Library Association president



“I had a memorable library experience researching 200-plus baseball bat patents at the patent library. They just kept bringing me books! When communities cut library funding, it is an example of society being cruel to itself. It’s being cruel to those who need it most. Reading is the foundation of knowledge. It expands how people think.”

Sam Holman, founder of the Original Maple Bat Company

“The books we read in childhood have more influence on us than anything read in later life. When we are grown up, we read for pleasure, for instruction, to confirm what we already know. To a child a book is a revelation. It shows him his place in the world, his future –as if he looked into a crystal ball.”

Graham Green, author

“Bringing up children is, I believe, the most important thing we do in life; so if you are frenziedly busy all the time, stop running if you can, slow down to a walk, and then sit down and read to your children. Life will be pleasanter and richer for you and for them.”

Nina Bawden, author



Panhandle Library System Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
D.A. Murphy Library / Panhandle Research Center Scottsbluff, NE

Before the meeting started, Deb Underhill gave us a tour of the D.A. Murphy Library.

President Diane Downer called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.

Present were board members: Diane Downer, Lillian Diedrichsen, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Kathy Terrell, Eileen Nightingale, Jim Soester, Jill Ellis, and Ruth Walker. Also attending were Deb Underhill, Librarian of the D.A. Murphy Library, Cherie Longmuir, PLS coordinator, and Debbie McCall, PLS Assistant. Cindy Mielke, was absent. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Eileen Nightingale reported that Sidney has applied for a teen spaces grant, as well as a local grant for CD's. They have a holiday arrangement program. Girl Scouts will be decorating the Christmas tree. During the Winter Festival, Eileen will be Mrs. Claus and read stories. Vickie Retzlaff reported that the Grant County Library is doing story hour this fall with a local sorority and Eastern Star. They had a fund raiser and made about \$1000. The library will have an open house on Dec. 8, 2006. Vickie went to Ogallala with the District 11 school to see Judi Schachner. She also reported that the library is accredited again for three years. Diane Downer reported that the Gering Public Library will have an open house on Dec. 8, 2006. They hosted a book discussion on the Alex Kava book. They have received Keno Funds so they can install a wireless internet system.

Jill Ellis reported that the Annual Meeting Committee does not have a speaker yet, but the theme will be "Christmas in July." It will be at the Harms Center in Scottsbluff on July 20, 2007.

Allison McBride reported that the Continuing Education and Technology committee has set up a technology workshop on March 22. On January 18 there is a Follett workshop in the morning and Sandy White will have a school library meeting in the afternoon. Shannon Behrhorst will do a "New Technologies" workshop on February 1 at Sidney. The Summer Reading Workshop will be March 7 in Gering. December 11 will be Weeding and Grant Writing workshops in Alliance. Cherie went over some of the other upcoming events.

The Public Relations committee reported that the Author tour was successful and a very positive experience. Cherie gave a detailed report on the expenses.

Scholarship committee reported on the "pat on the back" award. The award will be given at any time. It will be given to anyone who has done anything special for a library. This does not need to be a librarian. Also, they clarified that scholarships can be used for workshops. The committee suggested that the time frame for scholarship eligibility should be two years rather than three years before someone could reapply.

There was no report from the Nebraska Library Commission.

Kathy Terrell reported on NLA/NEMA Conference. She went to a session on assessing student learning and creating evidence folders. She reported that in February the school librarians will meet so they can work online and find out more about creating the folders.

Jill Ellis reported on various NLA sessions. Keynote speaker Stephen Abrahms said librarians can improve the quality of patrons' questions. The United States is about seven years behind the rest of the world in technology. Cindy Mielke did a workshop at NLA on library linking. She does a lot of connecting with the different organizations in her community. She has increased the library circulation by 30%. Cindy does a newsletter every month to inform the public of the things going on in the library. At his session, John Seyfarth gave out a CD with free software on it.

Cherie Longmuir reported that Paxton has a new librarian. It is Dianne Jay. Morrill Public Library has purchased an automation system. Bridgeport is starting a Friends Group. She discussed some ideas for the summer reading program for small libraries that serve a thousand or fewer patrons. She suggested that the libraries apply for the program and work with another library to make the program work. Valley View Christian School is a new member of the PLS. Cherie went over the Budget report. She did report that the rate for mileage will be increased to 48.5 cents. She also gave the Author Tour report. Judi Schachner was very good with the students. She is a very genuine person. All of the books that were ordered were sold. The total expenditure was \$8949.77. Donations were \$3425.00 Book sales were \$4536.00. The Panhandle Library System paid \$988.77.

An LSTA grant proposal to get disk repair equipment for the PLS office was presented by Cherie. The board discussed the disk repair equipment options. Jim Soester moved that the PLS write an LSTA grant to purchase Eco-Smart disk repair system to be used by the Panhandle Library System's libraries and that the supply costs for its use be prorated to the users. Kathy Terrell seconded the motion. The motion carried with nine yes votes. Cindy Mielke was absent.

The Technology plan was reviewed. Allison McBride moved to approve the Technology Plan. Jill Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rod Wagner from the Nebraska Library Commission will be at the next meeting on January 9, 2007 at the Bluffs Business Center.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

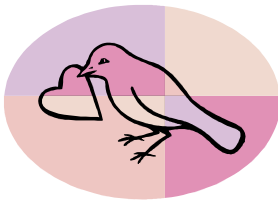
Ruth Walker, Secretary

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Scottsbluff, NE. 69361
Permit 260

PANHANDLE SUN

Panhandle Library System
1517 Broadway, Suite 129
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Coordinator's phone: 308-632-3168
Assistant's phone: 308-632-1350
Toll Free: 888-879-53036
Fax: 308-632-3978
Website: www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle



Your System Board Members:

Diane Downer, President
Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President
Ruth Walker, Secretary
Jill Ellis, Treasurer
Lillian Diedrichsen
Allison McBride
Eileen Nightingale
Jane Schlager
Jim Soester
Kathy Terrell

Serving libraries in these counties:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne,
Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith,
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan
and Sioux

Cherie Longmuir, PLS Coordinator, E-mail: clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us
Debbie McCall, PLS Administrative Assistant, E-mail: debm@charterinternet.com
PLS Web Site: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle>

Panhandle Sun is published 6 times a year by the Panhandle Library System. This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.

February 2007 / March 2007